Introducing the DS-160 U.S. Visa Application Form

U.S. Embassy Asmara, Eritrea

April 27, 2010

Background

- New online DS-160 nonimmigrant visa (NIV) application form

- Replaces the following forms:
  - DS-156 "Nonimmigrant Visa Application"
  - DS-157 "Supplemental Nonimmigrant Visa Application"
  - DS-158 "Contact Information and Work History for Nonimmigrant Visa Applicant"

- Mandatory as of June 1, 2010
  - Optional from May 1 through May 31, 2010

Advantages to Applicants

- One form instead of three
- Completely online – nothing to fill out by hand
- Family and group feature – no need to fill in identical data more than once
- Save feature – don't need to complete all at once
- Frequent applicants can save application for reuse
- Print only a single confirmation page

Application Process

Make Appointment
- In person
- By phone
- By e-mail

Complete Form
- Online at
  https://ceac.state.gov/genniv/

Come in to Embassy
- Pay Fee
- Fingerprint
- Interview

Pick Up Visa
- Day After Interview (usually)

Only the application form has changed – Other parts of the process remain the same

Completing the DS-160

Step 1 – Accessing the Application

- Go to https://ceac.state.gov/genniv

- Read the instructions and press "Start Application"

Completing the DS-160
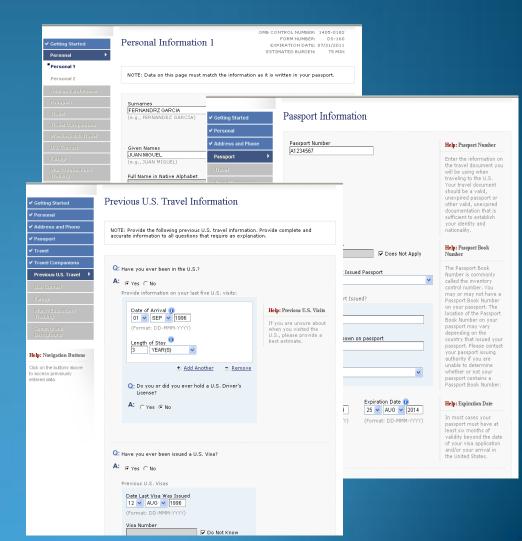
Step 2 – Choose the Embassy

- Choose the Embassy or Consulate where you will apply

Completing the DS-160

Step 3 – Fill In The Form

- Complete all questions carefully and accurately

- Inserting wrong information or leaving required items blank will only delay your application

Completing the DS-160

Saving an Application

- If you can't finish in one sitting, you can save the application to your hard drive and continue later

- Press "Save" at the bottom of any data entry page

- Press "Save Application to File"

- Press "Save" and navigate to the place you want to save your application

Completing the DS-160

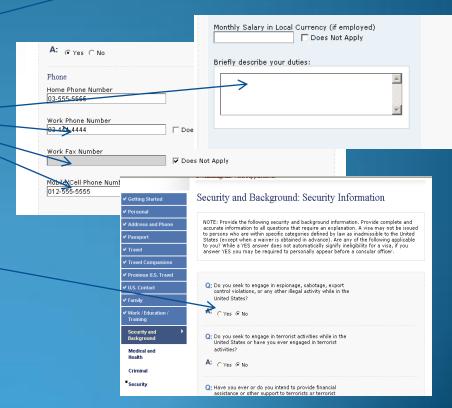## Retrieving a Saved Application

- Browse to a saved application file

- Press "Upload Data"

Completing the DS-160

Tips

- If a question doesn't apply to you, you must check the "Does Not Apply" box

- Answer fully and include as much detail as you can

- Be especially careful with the yes/no questions near the end – misrepresenting the facts can make you ineligible to receive a visa ever
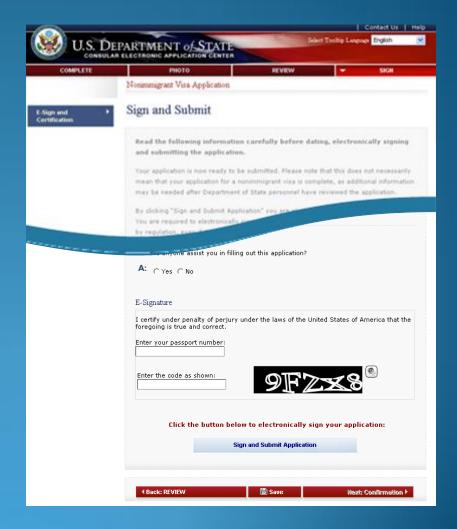
Completing the DS-160

Step 4 – Reviewing Your Application

- You have an opportunity to review and edit all your answers before submitting your application

- Check carefully that everything is correct – it's impossible to make changes later

Completing the DS-160

Step 5 – Submitting Your Application

- Once you submit your application, you can't change it

- Pressing "Sign and Submit Application" constitutes your electronic signature, certifying that all the answers on the application are true

Completing the DS-160

Step 6 – Printing Your Confirmation Page

- Print the confirmation page

- You only need to bring the printed confirmation sheet to the interview

- You can print the entire application for your own records if you wish

- You can e-mail the confirmation to someone else (e.g., if you are completing the application for another person)

Completing the DS-160

Step 6 – Printing Your Confirmation Letter (cont)

- This is what the confirmation page looks like if your photo was not uploaded

- You will need to bring a photo with you to the interview

Reminder

The DS-160 replaces only the application forms. Other items are still required

- Students: I-20

- Exchange Visitors: DS-2019

- Diplomats and Officials: Diplomatic Note

And most applicants still need evidence of ties to their place of residence

Contacts

Consular Section:

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